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Opening Doors

farmers are allowed in Russia.

Education receives new emphasis. The U.S.S.R. is graduating scientists and engineers at an annual rate roughly double that of the United States. Publications from the United States are gobbled up, as well as technical books in a special Geneva "atoms-for-peace" library.

Indeed it sometimes seems as if the current Soviet leadership is painstakingly taking apart the air-tight Iron Curtain so laboriously built up by Stalin, to gain the needed time and industrial and farming know-how.

The benefits of this liberalized policy are not one sided, however, and may result in long-run dangers to the present Soviet regime.

In a commencement address given at Columbia University last June, Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, pursued the theme that mass education in Russia may eventually become a threat to the Communist system.

"Ultimately, however much the Soviets condition a man's mind, however narrowly they permit it to develop, and however much they seek to direct him after he is trained, they cannot in the end prevent him from exercising that critical sense that they, themselves, have caused to be created in him when they gave him an education," Mr. Dulles said.

"I do not think we can easily give the answer (to the question of whether the Soviets can safely continue to do this) in

point of time, but one can say with assurances that, in the long run, man's desire for freedom must break any bonds that can be placed around him."

"Possibly for a time the Soviets will go forward, using their educational system as a sorting device for human assets. But there remains the possibility that newly created wants and expectations, stimulated by education and perhaps by more exposure to the West, will in time compel great and almost unpredictable changes in the Soviet system itself."

Freedom is a contagious thing. Once having been given, it is hard to take away. If the Russian leaders attempt it they might risk grave dissensions. But if they allow freedom to grow—as it tends to grow among a suppressed people—the Soviets might fashion the instrument of their own downfall.

And freedom to seek the truth in the fields of science, agriculture, biology and medicine can lead to doubts and questioning in the fields of government, economics and social science.

Already an upper-class psychology is detectable among scientists, engineers, administrators and bureaucrats receiving favorable treatment at the hands of the government on account of their capabilities. These favored few—growing into many—have a vested interest in peace.

This backwash of the Russian peace offensive has interesting implications.